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-- 47. A control device according to claim 33, wherein the control panel includes graphical elements for controlling functions of the device. --.

-- 48. A control device according to claim 33, wherein the communication interface receives the description file, after the control device detects that the device is connected to the network. --.

-- 49. A control device according to claim 33, wherein the controller displays an icon representing the device on a display device after the description file is automatically activated. -

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-- 50. A control device according to claim 49, wherein the controller displays the control panel on the display device after the icon is selected by a user. --.

-- 51. A control device according to claim 33, wherein the control device transmits a message corresponding to a graphical element of the control panel to the device when the graphical element is operated by user. --.

-- 52. A control device according to claim 33, wherein the device is represented as an object by a predetermined object oriented technique. --.

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-- 53. A control device according to claim 33, wherein the device is a CD player, a digital video recorder, a digital camera or a digital television. --.

-- 54. A control device according to claim 33, wherein the device is a facsimile, a copying machine or a printer. --.

-- 55. A control device according to claim 33, wherein the control device is a personal computer, a word processor or a work station. --.

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-- 56. A method for operating a control device, which controls a device via a network,

comprising the steps of:

receiving a description file including description data for a control panel of the device; and

automatically activating the description file, if the description file is received. --.

-- 57. A method according to claim 56, wherein the control panel includes graphical elements for controlling functions of the device. --.

-- 58. A method according to claim 56, wherein the receiving step receives the description file, after the control device detects that the device is connected to the network. --.

-- 59. A method according to claim 56, wherein the controlling step displays an icon representing the device on a display device after the description file is automatically activated. -

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-- 60. A method according to claim 59, wherein the controlling step displays the control panel on the display device after the icon is selected by a user. --.

-- 61. A method according to claim 56, wherein the control device transmits a message corresponding to a graphical element of the control panel to the device when the graphical element is operated by user. --.

-- 62. A method according to claim 56, wherein the device is represented as an object by a predetermined object oriented technique. --.

-- 63. A method according to claim 56, wherein the device is a CD player, a digital video recorder, a digital camera or a digital television. --.

-- 64. A method according to claim 56, wherein the device is a facsimile, a copying machine or a printer. --.